



WATER PURITY INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Drinking water sources in the United States, both tap water and bottled water, include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, sometimes, radioactive material. Water also picks up substances resulting from animal or human activity.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates the amounts of certain contaminants in water provided by public systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulates contaminants in bottled water to provide the same public health protection.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may be expected to contain reasonably small amounts of some contaminants. Their presence does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

CONTAMINANTS THAT MAY BE PRESENT IN SOURCE UNTREATED WATER

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, can occur naturally or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining and farming.

Pesticides and herbicides come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants can occur naturally or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

2010 WATER QUALITY RESULTS

The Minnesota Department of Health and City staff regularly test samples of Bloomington's water for many contaminants. Some substances were detected in trace amounts in the drinking water. Only those substances that were detected appear on the table; many results are not listed because the substances were not found at any time in 2010 by tests designed to detect them. Some substances are tested less than once per year; in such cases, the most recent results and the test dates are reported.

Some contaminants do not have Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) established. These "unregulated contaminants" are assessed using federal standards known as health risk limits to determine if they pose a threat. If unacceptable levels of an unregulated contaminant are found, the response is the same as if an MCL has been exceeded; the water system must inform its customers and take corrective actions.

The table's upper portion summarizes test results performed on Bloomington water. The lower portion

shows results for Minneapolis water because we blend Minneapolis treated surface water with our water plant's treated groundwater.

The Minnesota Department of Health has made a determination as to how vulnerable Bloomington's source water may be to future contamination incidents. If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment, please call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 (and press 5) during normal business hours, or view the assessment online at [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa).

Detected substance	Amount detected	Allowed (MCL)	Ideal (MCLG)	Typical source of substance	Type	Meets standards?
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON						
Arsenic (ppb) (09/05/2006)	1.7	10	0	Erosion of natural deposits	R	Yes
Chlorine (ppm)	Avg. = 2.1 (1.3 to 2.5)	4 MRDL	4 MRDLG	Water additive used to control microbes	R	Yes
Copper (ppm) (06/03/2008)	90% = 0.02 (0 of 30 sites over AL)	AL = 1.3	NA	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	R	Yes
Dichloromethane (ppm)	Avg. = 5.75 (nd to 23)	5*	0	Paint stripping chemical	R	No
Fluoride (ppm)	Avg. = 1.03 (0.94 to 1.2)	4	4	Added for strong teeth/bones; erosion of natural deposits	R	Yes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA) (ppb)	Avg. = 0.1 (nd to 0.4)	60	0	Chlorination by-product	R	Yes
Lead (ppb) (06/03/2008)	90% = 4 (0 of 30 sites over AL)	AL = 15	NA	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits <i>See page WQR3.</i>	R	Yes
Sodium (ppm) (07/03/2008)	5-4	U	U	Erosion of natural deposits	U	Yes
Sulfate (ppm) (07/03/2008)	12.6	U	U	Erosion of natural deposits	U	Yes
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	Avg. = 0.07 (nd to 0.4)	5	0	Paint stripping chemical	R	Yes
Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	Avg. = 0.6 (0.4 to 0.8)	80	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection	R	Yes
CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS						
Chlorine (ppm)	Avg. = 3.3 (2.4 to 3.5)	4 MRDL	4 MRDLG	Water additive used to control microbes	R	Yes
Copper (ppm) (09/21/2009)	90% = 0.07 (0 of 51 sites over AL)	AL = 1.3	NA	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	R	Yes
Fluoride (ppm)	Avg. = 1.06 (0.93 to 1.1)	4	4	Added for strong teeth/bones; erosion of natural deposits	R	Yes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	Avg. = 22.6 (7.7 to 37.5)	60	0	Chlorination by-product	R	Yes
Lead (ppb) (09/21/2009)	90% = 2 (1 of 51 sites over AL)	AL = 15	NA	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	R	Yes
Nitrate (as nitrogen) (ppm)	0.36	10.4	10.4	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from sewage; erosion of natural deposits	U	Yes
Sodium (ppm) (07/03/2008)	9.9	U	U	Erosion of natural deposits	U	Yes
Sulfate (ppm) (07/03/2008)	26	U	U	Erosion of natural deposits	U	Yes
Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	Avg. 28.3 (10.5 to 47.2)	80	0	Chlorination by-product	R	Yes
Turbidity (NTU)	Max: 0.33 (limit met 99.8%)	TT	NA	Soil runoff	R	Yes
KEY						
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest level allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.	NA	Not Applicable.	NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit. A measure of water clarity.	
		AL	Action Level. An amount that, if exceeded, triggers a specific response that a water system must follow.	MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level.	
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. Below this level there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.	TT	Treatment Technique. A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant.	MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal.	
		ppb	Parts Per Billion. Units of a substance, in pure form, found in every billion units of water.	90%	This is the value obtained after disregarding the 10 percent of the samples taken that had the highest levels.	
U	Unregulated, but monitoring is required by the State of Minnesota. No limits have been set for this compound.	ppm	Parts Per Million. Units of a substance, in pure form, found in every million units of water.	cfu	Colony Forming Unit.	
R	Regulated.			nd	No Detection.	

\* During the 2010 calendar year, Bloomington had a violation for dichloromethane. Some people who drink water containing in excess of the MCL over many years could have liver problems and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Dichloromethane was not detected in the follow-up samples collected at the treatment plant. Bloomington's system was returned to compliance. See page WQR1.